

NC Employees Workplace Program Requirements for Safety and Health

Sanitation

Scope

Sanitary and healthy workplace conditions promote a productive work environment and ensure that employees' health and welfare are protected.

Background

This safety requirement and procedure includes provisions for training and discussion on the sanitation requirements for construction jobsites and facilities. This safety requirement and procedure is established in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry ([29 CFR 1910.141](#)) and Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Construction Industry ([29 CFR 1926.51](#)).

Requirements

It is the requirement of the State to provide a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees or the public. Therefore, construction jobsites and facilities are to be kept clean, sanitary, and equipped for employee health. When sanitation hazards exist that cannot be eliminated, then engineering practices, administrative practices, safe work practices, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and proper training regarding sanitation will be implemented. These measures will be implemented to minimize those hazards to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

The provisions of this safety requirement and procedure are as follows:

- **Construction Jobsite Sanitation Requirements**
- **Facility Sanitation Requirements**
- **Training**

Construction Job Site Sanitation Requirements

Sanitation at a construction job site must be managed properly and integrated effectively with the construction site activities (See [Construction Jobsite Sanitation Plan and Checklist](#)). A construction job site's sanitation plan should include the following components:

- Potable water
- Non-potable water
- Toilets at construction sites
- Food handling
- Washing facilities

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- Eating and drinking areas
- Vermin control
- Change rooms

Facility Sanitation Requirements

Sanitation at facilities must also be properly managed and effectively integrated with the facility's activities. The components of a facility sanitation plan should include provisions for the following:

Housekeeping: All places of employment will be kept clean. Floors in work areas will be maintained in a dry condition. Where wet processes are used, drainage shall be maintained and false floors, platforms, mats, or other dry standing places shall be provided, where practical, or appropriate waterproof footgear shall be provided. Every floor, working place and passageway will be kept free from protruding nails, splinters, loose boards, and unnecessary holes and openings.

Any waste receptacle used for decaying solid or liquid waste or refuse shall be so constructed that it does not leak and may be thoroughly cleaned and maintained in a sanitary condition. Such a receptacle shall be equipped with a solid, tight-fitting, cover, unless it can be maintained in a sanitary condition, without a cover. All sweepings, solid or liquid wastes, refuse and garbage shall be removed in such a manner as to avoid creating a menace to health and as often as necessary or appropriate.

Vermin control: Every enclosed workplace shall be constructed, equipped, and maintained to prevent the entrance of and harboring of rodents, insects and other vermin. A continuing and effective extermination program shall be instituted where the presence of vermin are detected.

Toilet facilities: Toilet facilities (in toilet rooms separate for each sex) shall be provided according to the following criteria:

Number of Employees	Minimum Number of Water Closets
1 to 15	1
16 to 35	2
36 to 55	3
56 to 80	4
81 to 110	5
111 to 150	6
Over 150	1 additional fixture per each additional 40 employees

Where toilet facilities will not be used by women, urinals may be provided instead of water closets. However, the number of water closets in those cases shall not be reduced to less than two-thirds of the minimum specified. Where toilet rooms will be

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occupied by no more than one person at a time and can be locked from the inside and contain at least one water closet, then separate toilet rooms for each sex need not be provided. The sewage disposal method shall not endanger the health of employees. Each water closet shall occupy a separate compartment with a door and walls or partitions between fixtures sufficiently high to assure privacy.

Water Supply: Potable water shall be provided in all places of employment for drinking, washing of the person, cooking, washing of foods, washing of cooking or eating utensils, washing of food preparation or processing premises and personal service rooms. Portable drinking water dispensers shall be designed, constructed, and serviced so that they shall be capable of being closed and shall be equipped with a tap. Open containers for drinking water, from which water is dipped or poured, are prohibited. A common drinking cup or other common utensils are prohibited.

Washing facilities: Lavatories are to be available in all places of employment. Each lavatory shall be provided with hot and cold running water. Individual hand towels of cloth or paper, warm air blowers, or clean individual sections of continuous cloth toweling convenient to the lavatories shall be provided.

Showers (as applicable): Whenever showers are required, one shower shall be provided for each 10 employees of each sex. Body soap or other appropriate cleaning agents convenient to showering shall be provided. Showers shall be provided with hot and cold running water feeding a common discharge line. Employees who use showers shall be provided with individual clean towels. Change rooms (as applicable).

Changing Rooms: Whenever employees are required by a particular OSHA standard or agency guideline to wear protective clothing because of the possibility of contamination with hazardous materials, changing rooms equipped with storage facilities for street clothes and separate storage facilities for the protective clothing shall be provided.

Food and beverage consumption: No employee shall be allowed to consume food or beverage in a toilet room, nor in any area exposed to toxic material or infectious agents. No food or beverage shall be stored in toilet rooms or in areas exposed to a toxic material or infectious agents.

Disposal containers constructed of smooth, corrosive resistant, easily cleanable, or disposable, material shall be provided for the disposal of waste food. The number, size, and location of such receptacles shall encourage their use and not result in overfilling. Receptacles shall be emptied at least once each working day, unless unused, and shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Receptacles shall be provided with solid tight-fitting covers unless sanitary conditions can be maintained without use of a cover.

In all places of employment where all or part of the food service is provided the food dispensed shall be wholesome, free from spoilage, and shall be processed, prepared, handled, and stored, in such a manner as to be protected from contamination. All food service employees shall wear appropriate clean outer clothing such as caps, coats, aprons, etc., while on duty and shall observe proper personal hygiene. No employee shall use tobacco in any form while engaged in the preparation and

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handling of food. The hands of all employees handling food, utensils, or equipment, shall be kept clean, and be washed before beginning work and after each visit to the toilet. No person who has a contagious or infectious disease will be allowed to work in food service. Persons handling money should always wash their hands prior to handling food or wear disposable gloves.

Training

Employees are to be instructed in the importance of sanitation in the workplace. Good housekeeping and personal cleanliness will be emphasized in employee job duties. Specific job training will be conducted as the conditions warrant. Employees shall be instructed upon initial employment or new job assignment.

Definitions

Chemical Toilet: A portable toilet that uses chemical disinfection.

Lavatory: Basin or similar vessel used exclusively for washing of the hands, arms, face, and head.

Non-potable Water: Water that is not approved for drinking.

Potable Water: Water that is approved for drinking by the State or local authority.

Toilet Fixture: Fixture maintained within a toilet room for the purpose of defecation or urination or both.

Toxic Material: Material in concentration, or an amount, that exceeds the applicable limit established by a standard.

Urinal: Toilet facility maintained within a toilet room for the sole purpose of urination.

Resources

OSHA Standards for General Industry [29 CFR 1910.141](#)

OSHA Standards for Construction Industry [29 CFR 1926.51](#)

North Carolina Health and Human Services <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

North Carolina Division of Public Health www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dph/